BENGALURU, MONDAY, MAY 2, 2022 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

# Bangalore Mirror

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BangaloreMirror
Monday, May 2, 2022
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# B'luru scientist who was part of team that studied if life is possible on Mars by sending fermented tea to the red planet tells us all about the exciting findings

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A Bengaluru-based scientist was part of a revolutionary international study that suggests bacterial cellulose could be a biosignature of life on Mars and other planets. The researchers have also proposed that this bacterial cellulose could be helpful to develop space travellers' life support and extra-planetary colonisation and components of those bacteria could be used in space medicine. Researchers were able to demonstrate all of these by sending Kombucha to space.

Bengaluru-based Dr Debmalya Barh, who is stationed in Brazil, was pivotal to these studies that suggest that colonisation on Mars may be possible. This group of scientists from Germany, Ukraine, India, Brazil, South Africa, South Korea and Italy conducted the experiments with the support of the European Space Agency (ESA) under the BIOMEX space experiment project. While previous attempts to use individual microorganisms for space exploration have often failed, this group of scientists chose the probiotic-rich fermented tea drink, Kombucha or Kombucha Mutualistic Culture (KMC).

"We selected KMC for this experiment because KMC is a robust natural assemblage of bacteria and yeasts living in metabolic cooperation and forming a protective biofilm, and so it represents a suitable model for a study of microbial organism's interaction in stressful environments. Moreover, KMC produces one of the most popular healthy probiotic drinks and maybe a healthy beverage for the astronauts," said Dr Natalia Kozyrovska, Head of Microbial Ecology Laboratory from the Institute of Molecular Biology and Genetics of NASU, Kyiv, Ukraine.

"The team sent the KMC to International Space Station (ISS) where the KMC was exposed to a simulated Mars-like environment outside the ISS for 1.5 years. Later it was reactivated for 2.5 years to study the factors leading to its survival. I joined the team in 2017 and became the key person behind conceptualising and leading the genomics and bioinformatics based experiments," Dr Barh said.

They found that a group of bacteria mainly Komagataeibacrer obedient and K. hansenii were able to withstand the Martian stress. "The whole-genome analysis of K. obedient did not show any obvious change in this genomic constituent and these bacteria were able to survive due to their production of cellulose," said Dr Barh, who is currently stationed as a Professor in Bioinformatics and Precision health at the Institute of Biological Sciences (ICB), Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG), Brazil.

Dr Barh that the survival of the exposed bacteria is evident proof of the possibility of life on Mars. "The bio-film generated by the bacterial cellulose had applications ranging from producing fabric for astronaut suits and production of alternative meat for astronauts. We found K. obedient also retained its nitrogen fixation capability implying the possibility of cultivation on Mars using this bacteria as a bio-fertiliser. K. obedient and its bio-film may help bio-mining in Martian conditions. For ultimate success, we need to engineer these bacteria," he said.

"Our other experiments suggest the toxicity free outer membrane vesicles of Martian-stress tolerated K. intermedius can be used to deliver postbiotics or edible mucosal vaccines and other drugs to be used in space medicine," added Dr Barh.

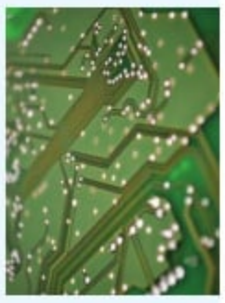
## KEY TEAM MEMBERS

**From left:** Prof. Debmalya Barh, Dr. Jean-Pierre de Vera, Dr. Natalia Kozyrovska, Prof. Bertram Brenig, Prof. Vasco Azevedo, Prof. Aristóteles Góes-Neto, and Dr. Andrea Di Cesare

1. **Prof. Debmalya Barh,** Department of Genetics, Ecology and Evolution, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil, conceptualised and led all the sequencing, genomics, metagenomics, and bioinformatics experiments
2. **Dr Jean-Pierre de Vera:** Institute of Space Operations and Astronaut Training, Microgravity User Support Center, Cologne, Germany who lead the spaceflight-related experiments
3. **Dr Natalia Kozyrovska,** Head of Microbial Ecology Laboratory from the Institute of Molecular Biology and Genetics of NASU, Kyiv, led all the biochemical and molecular biology experiments.
4. **Prof. Vasco Azevedo,** ICB, UFMG, Brazil and **5. Prof. Bertram Brenig** from the University of Göttingen, Germany were involved in sequencing.
6. **Prof. Aristóteles Góes**-Neto from ICB, UFMG, Brazil and **7. Dr Andrea Di Cesare** from the National Research Council of Italy were key members of the bioinformatics team.

## BITS & BYTES

### SEMICONDUCTOR PLANT IN K'TAKA



Karnataka signed an MoU with Israel-based company for setting up a Semiconductor Fab plant in the State with an investment of Rs 22,900 crore on Sunday. The Israeli company is expected to fully implement the project over a period of next seven years with employment potential for 1,500 persons. The plant will be set up near Mysuru. **BMB**

### RIGHT TO BE FORGOTTEN

Three young Israelis formerly serving in military cyber units have figured out how to locate your digital footprint -- and give you the tools to delete it.

The company Mine, co-founded by Gal Ringel, Gal Golan and Kobi Nissan, says it uses artificial intelligence to show users where their information is being stored -- like whether an online shoe store kept your data after a sneaker purchase three years ago.

Ringel said Mine's technology has already been used by one million people worldwide, with over 10 million "right to be forgotten" requests sent to companies using the firm's platform. **AFP**

### CRYPTO ON TELEGRAM

After the encrypted messaging app Telegram previously gave up on its own token, it now supports crypto payments.

According to Protocol, the addition could make crypto payments on messaging platforms more mainstream.

The TON Foundation, which manages the toncoin token, has enabled fee-free payments, sending crypto to other users, using toncoin (TON) in the app. It also has added the ability to buy bitcoin within the app.

Telegram, which has about 550 million users, previously dropped its plan for its own token after a legal challenge from theAUS Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). **IANS**

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PAGE 5

## ‘Of 52 herb species of medicinal value recorded at Jnanabharathi campus, 80% are used in Ayurveda and folk medicine’

# SIMPLY SUPHERB!

### Campus has rich herbaceous layer but lacks grassland

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

From asthma to snakebite, cancer to syphilis and nervous debility to internal haemorrhage, many believe, the Jnanabharathi campus of Bengaluru University (BU) will have a herb that may hold a cure for the ailment.

A recent assessment by the students of the department of environmental science at the university revealed the campus is teeming with herbs with a wide range of medicinal uses.

The study conducted on biodiversity conservation areas within the campus has identified 61 species of herbs, out of which 52 species turned out to be of medicinal value. The study also revealed that among 52 herb species recorded, about 80% of the species have been widely used in Ayurveda and folk medicine.

According to Dr BC Nagaraja, chairman, department of environmental science, BU, this is an outcome of various conservation measures that have been taken up on the campus in the past two decades.

“The campus has several

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

**“We have several microcosms of biodiversity or living research labs. In 1998, the university demarcated 800 acres as conservation areas.**

— Dr BC Nagaraja, chairman, dept of environmental science, BU

# Spit ends here

### In Bengaluru, no-spitting rule will be enforced as per BBMP by-laws

Melvin Mathew
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Citizens’ demand to ban spitting in public has indeed yielded results. A recent circular issued by the state government mandating masks also saw a ban on spitting in public along with prescribed penalisation.

However, due to the lack of penalty prescription at the district level, a fine for spitting in public might only be imposed in Bengaluru city as of now.

It has been about 25 months since citizen activists of Bengaluru have been demanding a ban on spitting in public and including it as part of covid appropriate behaviour, as spitting can lead to the spread of covid-19 among other respiratory diseases.

Within BBMP limits, authorities are planning to enforce the no-spitting rule through BBMP marshals. “We are planning to enforce it through the marshals; anybody found spitting will be penalised immediately. We also had a meeting with the RWAs, and requested them to educate the public and create awareness against public spitting,” said BBMP special commissioner of health Dr KV Trilok Chandra.

Along with many others, Bengaluru-based NGO Beautiful Bharat has been at the forefront of campaigning for a ban on spitting in public. The not-for-profit has been

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

## 3 THINGS TO DO

### 01 Remembering Ray

RV University Film Society and School of Liberal Arts and Sciences is doing a double-bill screening of two iconic movies by one of world cinema's most influential filmmakers from India, Bharat Ratna Satyajit Ray, to commemorate his 101st Birth Anniversary at RV University. The screenings featuring digitally remastered prints of all-time classics, Jalsaghar and Nayak (will be followed by a Masterclass on 'The Auteur's Legacy' by eminent national award-winning critic and author, MK Raghavendra. **Where: RV University**
**When: May 2, 5:30 pm onwards**
**Register: debjanih@rvu.edu.in**

### 02 Melodies under the stars

Catch band Lagori perform live at Forum Koramangala Mall. Young, energetic, full of surprises and madness on stage, Lagori has, over the last four years, brought thousands to their concerts. This city-based band is made up of four unique musicians bringing their own flavours and styles to the table. The ensemble consists of Tejas Shankar: Vocals, Geeth Vaz: Electric/Acoustic Guitar/ Backing Vocals, Edward Rasquinha: Acoustic Guitar/ Backing Vocals, Vinyl Kumar: Drums/Shakers/Cajon/Backing Vocals.
**Venue: Forum Koramangala Mall**
**When: May 7, 6.30 pm onwards**

### 03 Mothers' Day special

Elements Mall has come up with a contest to celebrate Mothers' Day. Give a missed call to 88843433388. You then have to fill in the form and say "why you think your mom is wow" and win a treat voucher. The finale will pick out the winner and three best responses will get gift vouchers and gift hampers.
**Where: Elements Mall, Thanisandra Main Road, Nagavara; Date: Till May 7, Grand Finale: May 8, 11 am – 8 pm; Info: www.elementsmall.com**

# When April brought some cheer to health workers

## Daily covid numbers reduced 12 times compared to March; only two deaths recorded

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Ever since Covid hit the city two years ago, April 2022 has recorded the least number of Covid deaths. Only two died of Covid in Bengaluru last month -- a stark contrast with April-end/May 2021 when 6,971 people lost their lives during the second wave.

The daily Covid numbers also came down by 12 times (1,896 cases reported in April) in comparison with March 2022 (22,892 infections and 40 deaths).

However, the fear of a fourth wave is looming large. Bengaluru's daily numbers have exceeded 100 and only the next few months will determine whether it is onset of a new wave or just a blip.

The Covid graph in the city has been a roller coaster ride. However, the first two waves took longer to subside and there was a considerable gap between the second and third wave.

Covid arrived in the city on March 8, 2020, when three members of a family tested positive after returning from the US and in January 2021, 10,311 cases and 66 deaths were reported (This was the least number of deaths per month in the first wave).

While the first wave was mainly driven by alpha variants, the delta wave proved that it was more fatal, causing the second wave. By March 2021, the city was back to having a higher Covid case load with 31,886 cases and 147 deaths. The infections grew exponentially so much that by April, more than three lakh people were infected (3, 38,360 cases and 1,907 deaths).

Marshals go around the city reminding people to follow covid protocols & keeping their guard up

**Bengaluru's daily covid numbers have crossed 100 and authorities, doctors are on alert**

The trend continued with May (4, 06,489 cases and 6,971 deaths). The second wave started easing by June (50,330 cases and 2,280 deaths); July (13,104 cases and 228 deaths); August (10,089 Covid cases and 113 deaths); September (8,234 cases and 155 deaths).

The Covid numbers are likely to go up in May this year as the State Government has decided to increase testing and ramp up precautionary measures in light of a possible fourth wave. Currently, 3,500 tests are being done in a single day in the city as against the record one lakh tests during the third wave. However, now, the state is targeting 30,000 tests a day including 10,000 tests in Bengaluru. A city like Delhi is having a TPR of 5 per cent and Bengaluru is at 2.75 per cent currently.

# A boy's stories, transcending borders

## An aspiring writer, Class 3 student's stories are being featured by Singapore journal

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

While the pandemic affected children's reading and writing skills as most of them became glued to their phones, for some, it was the contrary. Forced to stay indoors, many kids took up writing to pass the time, with wonderful results.

Eight-year-old Aaryan Vittal, a Grade 3 student of Ekya School, JP Nagar, got into writing stories during the pandemic and his creative story was selected to be republished by the international Borderless Journal, based in Singapore.

Aaryan said that his mother was his inspiration, as she reads a lot of books and also has a mini library in their house.

In the last two years, Aaryan has written five stories and one poem. The wizard who collected blessings',' Little fish', 'My memorable Vishu celebration', 'Ganesh Chaturthi - A letter to lord Ganesha', 'Aachi thaatha - tell me about Pongal', 'My first camper van trip' -- these were some of his creative works.

'The wizard who collected blessings' was Aaryan's first story and it was published by Bookosmia. As the story went viral, it was eventually selected and published on Borderless, an online portal.

"As my mother reads and writes, I also inculcated the same habit. During the pandemic with no offline classes, I was free at home and began to read more and wanted to write. When my first story got published, it made me very happy and I decided to continue writing," he said.

Borderless is an online journal based in Singapore and was started with a goal of connecting writers and readers beyond boundaries drawn by money, nationality, rituals and cultures.

Aaryan now aspires to become an author. "My favourite author is Liz Pichon, who wrote the Tom Gates series. I would love to be an author in the future like JK Rowling," he said.

# How about fixing immigration facilities at airport?

## After tweet from Biocon chief about bettering immigration service, several fliers share experiences, offer suggestions

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With Bengaluru witnessing a surge in international travel, technocrats and businessmen are suggesting that the Centre improve immigration facilities at Kempegowda International Airport Limited (KIA). Though the flyers have been demanding for a hassle-free process for long, Biocon Chief Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw is the latest to bring up the issue again.

Shaw took to Twitter recently stating, "Immigration needs to be smart and digital. Face recognition technology and biometrics should make the entry and exit efficient. Right now immigration is a nightmare at Bengaluru airport and is ruining our city's previous reputation of being most efficient." Flyers and other twitterati jumped in heartily with their complaints and suggestions based on their experience. A Twitter user said, "I once got through immigration at Bengaluru airport to go to the UK. The immigration officer (who was being slightly creepy) texted me privately on my Indian number as soon as I reached London. What about data privacy?"

With covid restrictions lifted, there is a spike in international travel

Another netizen seconded Shaw. "This is the need of the hour especially with our ambitious plan on expanding international operations. The experience after a long haul makes us rethink to settle in a tier 2 city, where the exit and entry is seamless." Another twitter user suggested it was high time the technology was adopted. "Totally agree 30 years ago was my 1st entry into Dubai and today immigration there just scans my eyes and the whole process is less than 50 seconds. High time India adopts technology to ease human lives," he said. Shaw responded that the immigration officers were poorly trained.

### On the cards, DigiYatra

Meanwhile, sources said that it would take some time before the Facial Recognition System (FRS) is adopted at KIA. Facial Recognition based passenger processing is a common standard being adopted the world over.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation's DigiYatra proccess will have a centralised registration system for passengers. Under the Digi Yatra, passengers can get a Digi Yatra ID by sharing minimum details like name, e-mail ID, mobile number and details of one approved Identity proof where Aadhar ID is not mandatory. This DigiYatra ID will be shared by passengers while booking a ticket.

Airlines will share the passenger data and DigiYatra ID with the departure airport. A passenger who has created the ID has to undergo a one time verification at the departure airport during his/her first travel. If a passenger opts for Aadhaar-based verification, identity will be verified online. On successful verification, facial biometric information will be captured and stored in the DigiYatra ID profile of the passenger. In case the passenger has chosen any other identity for creating the ID, verification will be done manually by security personnel and facial biometric will be captured and stored in the DigiYatra ID profile.

> **"Right now immigration is a nightmare at Bengaluru airport and is ruining our city's previous reputation of being most efficient..."**
> – Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw's tweet

# Protest shoddy job, get detained

## Protesters gather near Sankey Tank to raise voice against never-ending infra work of poor quality

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Residents' protests near Sankey Tank managed to harry the authorities enough to elicit police action. A few residents were detained after the protest. They were taken to Sadashivanagar Police station. They were protesting against the poor quality construction work that was going on for years in the area as well as the slow pace at which it is taking place.

Anoop Iyengar, one of the protestors as well as a resident of the area, said, "The work is just being repeated over and over. In Sankey tank, pavement construction had just been done four months ago, now they started digging again and there is no space to walk."

The residents are also unhappy with the quality of work done by the authorities. "The 17th cross road had been laid a few days back, but now it is undone and not even fit for walking," Iyengar said.

Another resident of the area said, "The park here is meant to be a space for us to walk and breathe free. But a majority of the time we cannot walk because there is always some or the other construction work going on. I have witnessed people falling so many times."

Police ask protesters near Sankey Tank to clear off as they hold placards pointing to poor infra work in the area

> **"Pavement construction was done at Sankey Tank just four months ago, now they started digging again**
> – Anoop Iyengar, resident

The residents say that the same contractors are given the work despite their having done a poor job in the past. The residents had previously protested against the same issue. During the protest, they mentioned that they were not against development, but they demanded transparency in the work that was being done.

Another protester said, "The authorities said that they would finish the work within 30 days after we first protested, but nothing has been done. We had demanded that the documents of the work be made available to the public, and that the contractor's name, time required for the project to be completed and the budget be mentioned, but nothing was done according to our demands."

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# Wires, injurious to health

## After yet another life was lost in electrocution from dangling cables, citizens in Bengaluru are leaving no stone unturned to protest

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A bunch of cables, knotted together and wound to a tree, some of it spilling on the pavements and even on to the road. In Bengaluru, this is a familiar sight and many have lost their lives through electrocution. Despite much being spoken and written about these issues, they continue to be a ubiquitous sight, putting the lives of pedestrians and residents at risk.

Recently, a 22-year-old youth died of electrocution in Sanjay Nagar after coming in contact with a live cable wire. "Recently, the youth was electrocuted on his way back home. It was an optical-fibre cable (OFC) wire that was connected to the router. But the router was non-functional and the excess electricity flowed through the wire.

"Cable companies leave the old ones in the same place while replacing them with the new ones. On each road, there are hundreds of cables. If BBMP removes these hanging cables, another life won't be lost," said Vignan Gowda, a member of the Sanjay Nagar RWA.

Residents from other areas also chimed in, claiming the same plight.

Vishnu Prasad from Bellandur Forum, said that it was a universal problem in the city. "I have filed complaints against OFC companies but to no avail. Around two years back, BBMP was instructed by the Additional Chief Secretary's office to bring out an OFC policy. Another problem associated with these cables is the constant digging of roads. Many roads in Kasavanahalli and surrounding areas have been dug up without authorisation. They usually have permission to dig 1-2 roads but end up digging 3-4 roads."

A resident from Banaswadi said that he was worried that a two-wheeler could also get caught in these cables as well. "We are not aware which cable belongs to which company. Around 50-100 cables are running across the road and some of them break and fall. I complained to BBMP officials but there was no action.

Residents complain that cable companies do a half-baked job of installing cable wires properly

> **I had to ask my watchman to roll it around the tree. We don't want to wait for someone to get hurt to take action**
>
> –PV Ramachandran, a resident

"Eventually, I had to ask my watchman to roll it around the tree. We are trying our best as we don't want to wait for someone to get hurt to take action," said PV Ramachandran, a resident of OMBR Layout.

Sanjay Nagar residents want all such deadly hanging cables to be removed from their area. After the accident, residents from other areas in Bengaluru are urging officials with the same request.

Protesting against the hanging cables, residents of Sanjay Nagar gathered in a peaceful gathering near the Gedhalahalli bus stop. Residents held placards with slogans like 'War against Hanging Cables', 'BBMP: Protect us, Do Not Kill us', and more.

They demanded immediate action against hanging cables across the city and to set clear guidelines for companies to operate legally.

Gowda added, "We will also be filing a petition with the Chief Minister asking for compensation to be released to the victim's family. We are suggesting that the victim's brother be provided with the job as well."

Gowda added that in December 2021, they had a similar protest against the unauthorised digging of OFC cables and they were assured by BBMP officials that it would be fixed within 10 days.

"OFC cables have been illegally installed on the city's roadway, sidewalk, power pole, and trees. This can lead to the death of pedestrians. Therefore, the Chief Commissioner was instructed to ensure adequate clearance of unauthorised OFC cables within the respective zone," said BBMP in a press release.

# Lake to get a green makeover

## Singena Agrahara Lake in Anekal to get a community forest around it; over 1,000 saplings to be planted

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Once upon a time, Singena Agrahara Lake in Anekal was a sorry sight, a shrivelled waterbody that was only a shadow of its former self. Said to be 1,000 years old, the water in the lake was drying up, while illegal activities like people drinking near the lakeside and throwing alcohol bottles was noticed by the locals. Many encroachments were also present.

But thanks to the determination of a retired army officer, Captain Santosh Kumar, the lake was given a new lease of life, in just 120 days.

Now, in Phase 2 of the rejuvenation efforts, locals, government officials, and lake activists are working together to build a community forest around the lake. Their aim is to plant over 1,000 saplings and make it into a forest in the surroundings of the lake. Over 200 plants comprising jackfruit, jamun, banyan, and other fruit-bearing trees were planted in the first phase.

While citizens propelled the initiative, Karnataka Forest Department helped in providing the saplings, while other government departments like the Revenue Department, RDPR and others pitched in to help.

One of the residents said, "The plantations around the lake would help in increasing the biodiversity of the lake. The fruit and flower-bearing plants will help in bringing the birds and bees while it will also increase the beauty of the lake. These trees will have a high survival rate."

Another resident spoke on the positive outcomes of rejuvenating the lake. "People had stopped visiting the lake, but after its revival, many have started visiting it. Now, with the plantations, the lake will soon get be beautified. It will also act as a canopy and people can come and spend some leisure time."

PIC FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

Bangalore Mirror

THE LAKE LIVES

Retd army officer takes it upon himself to coordinate with authorities, farmers to bring the Singena Agrahara Lake back to life

Our report on Nov 19, 2021 spoke about Captain Santosh Kumar's efforts in reviving the dead lake

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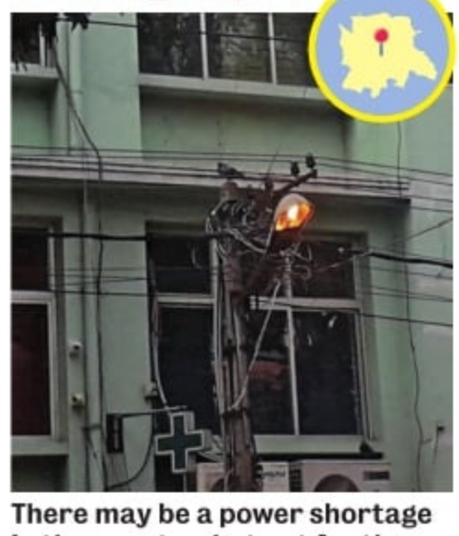
### Trashed
**Sudhama Nagar**

On H Siddaiah Road, Sudhama Nagar, the streets not cleaned on an everyday basis and residents feel uncomfortable walking. Waste is only picked up by the workers once in 10 – 15 days.

### Wasted: Electricity
**Babusapalya Service Road**

On Babusapalya Service Road, the lights are on even during the day. The authorities concerned should be aware about this and not waste money or electricity.

### Power them off, please
**Cambridge Layout**



There may be a power shortage in the country, but not for the BBMP. Next to Akshaya Bar, Cambridge layout, Ulsoor, the lights are always on.

PICS: KAUSHIK JN

## All hail the rain

Rain brought a welcome break for Bengalureans from the scorching heat of the last week. That said, the after-effects of rain weren't all that good. Residents of low-lying areas had a tough Sunday. Ramamani S, a home maker, from Navodaya Nagar (JP Nagar, fifth phase) told BM, "The road near where I stay hasn't been asphalted for years. It becomes slushy and difficult to walk after rain. And the storm water drains are blocked so the water started oozing out of the sanitary chambers and gushing into the house compound." At some areas there was heavy hailing too, with large hail stones battering rooftops

# Take precautions, make a splash

### Docs suggest ways to ensure kids stay safe as they resume swimming to beat the heat

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As children return to outdoor swimming sessions after a hiatus of two years, wheezing, skin reactions, urinary tract infections and sensitive private parts are only some of the pool-related issues that are keeping the city paediatricians busy.

According to health experts, a majority of these cases can be attributed to the chlorine content of the pools. They say the children were not exposed to the chemical for the last couple of years and the first exposure is bound to cause these issues.

"We are getting around two to three cases every day of children developing skin-related issues during swimming sessions. Most of these kids are between five and eight years old. The majority of these cases can be attributed to the chlorine content in the pools. The children were not exposed to these chemicals for the last couple of years. Thus, the first exposure is bound to cause these issues. Moreover, heat is playing its role too. Heat makes the skin dry and sensitive, so even a small amount is troubling the children," said Dr Sujatha Thyagarajan, senior consultant, Aster RV Hospital.

The swimming-related issues among children are not just restricted to skin allergies and rashes. Many are reaching out to health experts with multiple episodes of wheezing.

"We are getting cases of children with wheezing episodes after swimming, which can be an exercise-induced symptom. Children were locked up indoors for too long without much physical activity and probably they are getting tired easily. Moreover, during the third wave, a significant number of kids contracted covid-19. While we are not certain, wheezing can be due to the Omicron variant as well. The variant may be causing immune dysregulation in children leading to wheezing episodes," said Dr Srikanta JT, consultant, paediatric pulmonologist.

Exposure to chlorine all of a sudden can cause skin infections, doctors say

> **"Parents should make sure that they enroll the kids in the morning or late evening batches to avoid such problems. They should also be well hydrated**
>
> –Dr Anuradha Vinod, Manipal Hospital

Experts say sunburn is yet another risk in children while swimming during very hot summer, especially between 11 am and 3 pm, as UV rays are very intense during this time.

"The sun reflects off the water surface and that increases the dose of UV rays. Additionally, when immersed in the pool kids may not feel the 'burn' and seek shade as they would do if they were not in the water," said Dr Rajath Athreya, senior consultant and HOD, paediatrics and neonatology, Sakra World Hospital.

Stomach issues, vomiting, cough, cold and fever are some other health issues the children are facing as they step out, post the pandemic. According to health experts, since kids are outdoors and sweating a lot, it can lead to severe itching or exacerbation of atopic dermatitis.

Avoiding exposure between 11 am and 3 pm, using sunscreen, limiting swim time and keeping kids well hydrated are some of the ways to steer clear of the pool-related issues.

"Children, post swimming sessions, should immediately wash off all the chemicals and moisturize their skin. Those with allergic skin should understand that chlorine in the water can trigger atrophic dermatitis. Proper skin hygiene is extremely important. Moisturising once a day might not be enough. Hydrating yourself to keep your skin hydrated and supple is important," said Dr Srikanta.

Experts say while kids must normalise their outdoor activities, they need to bear a few things in mind and take precautions.

"Children should take precautionary measures to reduce the impact of the sun. A lot of them going for swimming classes are also going down with cough, cold, fever and stomach-related issues, etc. Parents should make sure that they enroll the kids in the morning or late evening batches to avoid such problems. They should also be well hydrated and have nutritious food so that immunity helps them to tide over this," said Dr. Anuradha Vinod, paediatrics consultant, Manipal Hospital.

## PSI exam scam: 12 more arrested

A dozen more people have been arrested in connection with the police sub-inspectors (PSI) recruitment scam, taking the total arrests to over 30 including the kingpin Divya Hagaragi, a BJP leader.

Police sources on Sunday said the arrested people were candidates who had bribed to get a posting.

Another accused from Mangaluru surrendered before the police. He told reporters that he was not keeping well, so he did not turn himself in.

After the reports of his alleged involvement emerged, he decided to surrender but claimed innocence.

The scam came to light when a candidate, who had attempted only 21 questions in the OMR sheet with 100 questions, was shown as if he scored 100 marks.

The Karnataka government annulled the PSI examination on Friday following alleged large-scale irregularities to fill 545 posts. Over 54,000 people from across the State had applied for the job.

It emerged during investigation that Rs 75 lakh to Rs 80 lakh was charged from the candidates. **–PTI**

## Bunking pain for KSRTC

Guess, the biggest problem for Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC)? Absenteeism. Sources said that a section of employees bunk without prior information. As the KSRTC is primarily involved in running buses, the sudden bunking could risk its daily business. KSRTC has one of the largest fleets in the country with 35,000 employees working in the transport body. Out of 35,000, 8,414 are facing disciplinary cases. Around 7,200 disciplinary cases have been terminated for the last three days with a minimum fine of Rs 100, Rs 200 and a maximum Rs 500. These cases are punishable by a fine of at least Rs 25,000.

V Anbu Kumar, who recently took over as KSRTC managing director, said employees who were absent from duty for less than 10 months were exempted from any disciplinary proceedings and have been issued a reporting order and allowed to operate the bus. Accordingly, 110 absentee employees have reported for duty from the past three days. "For the first time in the history of the corporation, 7,200 disciplinary cases have been waived off as a one time remedy and goodwill measure. It is our duty not only to punish the employees but also to encourage, motivate and work for their welfare," he said. He emphasised this was just a one-time relaxation to employees not to be involved in pilferage/accident/absentee cases. **—BMB**

# Cargo train derailment: Trains resume after interruption

The South Western Railway informed late night on Saturday that the train services are back to normal as realignment on the Bengaluru-Tumakuru line has been completed.

"Our Bengaluru team has completed re-ailment at 11 PM. Train services will now operate as normal," assured the railways.

The train services were interrupted after Parcel Cargo Express Train derailed at Yesvantpur Yard in the Bengaluru district of Karnataka.

"At about 9.10 PM, a minor derailment of Parcel Cargo Express Train occurred at Yesvantpur Yard. However, Main Line is not affected and trains are running through, but with minor delay. Our team is at the spot to ensure speedy restoration," Railway authorities informed earlier.

"Train no. 16580, 16516, 11005, 06244, 16230 will experience some delay as lines 3-7 are affected. Trains are dealt on line 1 and 2. Inconvenience is regretted. Further updates will follow," they had added.

The reason behind the derailment has not been ascertained yet. **ANI**


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**personal**

**CHANGE OF NAME**

**I,** Tushar Patil R/O A704 Arvind Skylands,Jakkur Main Road,Off Airport Road,Near VDB Apartments,Nehru Nagar,Yelahanka,Bengaluru-560064 have changed my name to Tushar Uttamrao Patil

**GALLERIA**

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# The campus herbarium

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

microcosms of biodiversity that can serve as living labs for research. In 1998, the university demarcated 800 acres out of 1,200 acres as biodiversity conservation areas. It was done based on topography, drainage patterns and existing vegetation. Moreover, the university has erected boundary walls and deployed people to check grazing. Since then, there has been a sharp decline in the frequency of fire incidents on the campus, leading to a rich diversity of herbs," said Dr Nagaraja.

The campus boasts of a series of check dams constructed to harvest rainwater at an extensive scale. This, according to experts, has significantly improved the ecology and microclimate of the region. Moreover, multiple afforestation activities undertaken without altering the original landscape to conserve native species have led to an improved ground herbaceous layer.

The study also highlighted that the majority of the ubiquitous herb species are native plants. Out of 52 species, while 23% belong to the exotic category, a whopping 77% turned out to be native herbs.

According to Vidyashree Siddaramu, a research scholar at the department, this assessment indicates the biodiversity conservation area of the campus is relatively less disturbed by anthropogenic activities.

"Various conservation activities, including afforestation, have been taking place on the campus since then. Entry of cattle and other grazing animals has been prohibited in conservation areas. We wanted to test if the restoration programmes have improved the campus biodiversity and the results have been encouraging," said Siddaramu.

## Threats loom

While the campus has erected compound walls to conserve its biodiversity-rich areas, campus dwellers said, grazing and fire incidents still crop up regularly and should be controlled.

Experts also said the ecological cost of livestock grazing can exceed any other land use impacts and can irreversibly degrade biodiversity. Moreover, when clubbed with human-induced fire, the damage can be irreparable.

"Grazing has a greater impact on herb biodiversity as herbs are seasonal. They can be seen only during the monsoon period. Post that, they are present in a dormant state, mostly in the form of seeds in the soil. When we club it with fire incidents, the biodiversity can be greatly threatened," said Siddaramu.

Fire provides a perfect platform for invasive species such as parthenium, lantana, etc. These species replace the herbs immediately after a fire incident. Frequent fire incidents clubbed with high levels of grazing lead to soil erosion, threatening the survival of the herbs.

According to Dr Nagaraja, the need of the hour is to deploy more personnel to guard the forest, establish watch towers, regulate outsiders' movements and install CCTV cameras to prevent these threats.

"University has to regulate walkers' and outsiders' movements in the biodiversity conservation areas. Oftentimes, people leave behind lit cigarette butts increasing the chances of fire. There should be designated areas for walkers instead of allowing them everywhere. Moreover, all the biodiversity-rich spots should be kept under CCTV surveillance," added Dr Nagaraja.

## Grasslands needed

While the campus has a rich herbaceous layer, it lacks grassland ecosystems. Ecologists said while tree plantation is being widely promoted as a foolproof solution to all the climate-related issues, it should not happen everywhere.

"Over the years we have focused only on planting gigantic trees and ignored other ecosystems. Grassland is a unique ecosystem that is lacking on the campus. There are many plant and animal species which prefer an open and well-lit environment. In the absence of that, these species are pushed out, leading to the loss of unique biodiversity. However, since anthropogenic disturbance has gone down, the grassland ecosystem is coming up slowly in some places on the campus. We just need to maintain these," said Dr Nagaraja.

# No more spitting in public

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

highlighting the health impacts of spitting in public spaces. It has also worked with the BBMP towards setting up no-spitting signages in public places to create awareness.

"We are delighted to see the ban against spitting in public places is now incorporated into covid appropriate behaviour for Karnataka - a key demand of our #StopIndiaSpitting movement; there is also a current live petition to the Prime Minister on this and other measures that can help ease out the nasty habit. This is the first step towards calling out spitting as a disease spreader, along with continued awareness building. All premises must have no-spitting signs. We must take the opportunity provided by covid and make it a turning point, rooting out public spitting from India," said Odette Katrak, the co-founder of Beautiful Bharat, driving the national StopIndiaSpitting movement.

In Bengaluru, the no-spitting rule will be enforced under the bylaws of BBMP; penalisation might not be possible outside Bengaluru yet.

"Within Bengaluru, it was already an offence, as per BBMP bylaws. It becomes more crucial now to stop this behaviour in the light of covid-19 as the dispersal of sputum could increase the spread. Many people are asymptomatic carriers and hence spitting needs to be avoided in public places. There is a lesser chance of spitting while people continue to wear masks. These practices should be followed along with other covid appropriate behavioural elements like social distancing, hand hygiene, and wearing of masks," said Randeep D, state health commissioner.

"The rule will be applicable throughout the state and will be overseen by district officials. Within BBMP limits, there is already a fine in place; at the district level, the penalty has not been prescribed yet. For now, we are planning to create an environment where public spitting is discouraged and that in itself will work as a deterrent. Further, we will look at bringing it under the legal ambit of penalising," he added.

**HEALTH TIP:** Rice bran oil helps in maintaining blood sugar levels and improves insulin resistance in our bodies

Including olive oil in your regular diet improves metabolism and helps in weight loss.


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# What's hot this summer?

## Take note of five wardrobe essentials you've got to have this season

Rayana Kalra
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@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

The sun is firing up and the weather is taking a turn for the better (at least for the sake of our closets). Our heavy-duty jackets are no longer hogging up the closet. It's now time for light and floaty summer fabrics. What better way to dress up for the spring and summer than the perfect dress? It's a one-stop wonder that removes the stress of putting together a whole outfit. But where should one start? We have rounded up five essential dresses for your spring/ summer wardrobe to kickstart your dress collection and guarantee a bang for your buck!

### Airy whites

A flowy white dress is the answer to all your outfit problems in the summer. It is light, breathable, beautiful, and perfect for any occasion. Plus, they look phenomenal in any length, from mini to maxi. Look out for linens and cotton if you're looking for something to slip on during the day. But if you're more of a night owl, opt for a satin dress or one with feminine details like some lace or ruffles for the perfect summer night out look.

### Playful pastels

There's nothing quite like a dainty pastel dress for the spring and summer months; nothing comes close to the ethereal feeling of putting on a powder blue babydoll dress, or a rose pink slip dress, and feeling like a fairy princess. Fantasies aside, they are also incredibly versatile—not too funky to be worn professionally, and elegant enough to be worn for a night out on the town.

> There's nothing quite like a dainty pastel dress for the spring and summer months

### Feminine florals

Florals are the print of the season. They are feminine and elegant and will speak to anyone whose style leans towards the bohemian and cottage core. They can be worn as cover-ups, as day dresses, as picnic outfits, on brunch dates, for an evening coffee, for a park stroll, or even for an intimate dinner.

### Colour 'em cute

This is the perfect investment for those looking to freshen up their spring and summer wardrobes. Or perhaps, you are simply bored of your style and are looking to try out something new. Whatever your motive, step out of your comfort zone and go for a vibrant, colourful dress to spice up the summer (trust me, you won't regret it). All eyes will be on you!

**Tip:** Oranges, yellow and hot pinks are particularly in fashion this season so be on the lookout!

### LBD and chill

The perfect little black dress is a timeless classic. Silhouettes may change with time, but one can never go wrong with a black mini dress. If you're ever in a pickle, this dress is sure to come in handy, so make sure to invest in the perfect one: body-con square neck if you're looking to accentuate those curves or show off those toned legs you've been spending hours in the gym for. A babydoll mini is a way to go for a youthful look, while something with ruffles and lace would be ideal for a femme look. Or if you're looking for a sultry and fierce look, there are always cut out dresses to keep you company. As the late Karl Lagerfeld once said: "One is never overdressed or under-dressed in a little black dress." There is a little black dress out there for everyone to wear everywhere.

## MIRRORLIGHTS

## The truth about menstruation

Given the lack of menstrual education in our schools and the age-old superstitions attached to the subject, there is a lot of unnecessary hullabaloo surrounding periods in India. Misleading information propagated through TV commercials makes it worse. Despite efforts being made by the media and entertainment industries to bridge the gap of misinformation, it remains a taboo topic on which many false claims are floated around. Let's address some of them today, and bust the myths once and for all:

Period blood is no different than the blood flowing through your veins in any other part of your body. The reason why it has a smell, though, is because it gets mixed with the uterine tissue, mucus lining and bacteria while being discharged from the vagina. This doesn't make it filthy or impure in any way.

Unlike popular belief, not a lot of blood is lost during periods. The uterus lining amounts to merely 2 to 3 tablespoons of blood which is discharged across 4 to 6 days. Those who are experiencing spotting or unusually high quantities of blood loss, should see a gynaecologist.

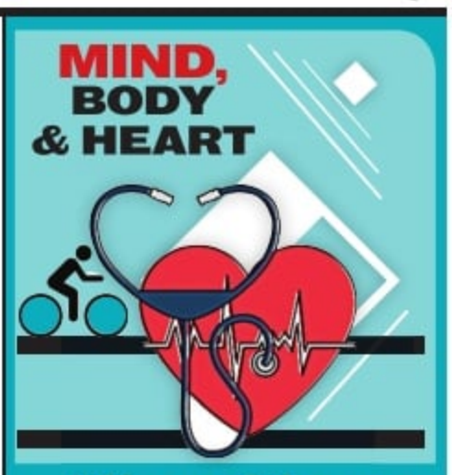
No menstrual product is superior to the other. It's a matter of choice. Cloth pads are not inherently unhygienic. It depends on how one uses it. Ideally, they should be

washed with soap every 4-6 hours and left to dry under direct sunlight, which helps kill the bacteria. Neglecting menstrual hygiene can lead to irritation and infections.

Everyone's experience with periods is different. It's not okay to shun someone's emotions as 'PMS'. It's not okay to tell them to 'be strong' when they're going through menstrual cramps, because sometimes, the pain is so bad you can't function like a normal human being. Those suffering from menstrual disorders like endometriosis and dysmenorrhea, which are more common than we think, often claim their cramps feel like stabs. So be empathetic and don't assume.

Not all women get periods and not all those who do are women. Menstruation is not a gendered phenomenon, as transgender men and non-binary people can also go through it. That's why it's more progressive and inclusive to use the term 'menstruators'. It doesn't reduce people to a biological process.

**– Ritu Ailani**




## All problems solved

*Dear Coleen*

**My marriage has been struggling for a while and it's been especially hard since we had our son three years ago. I feel very disconnected from my husband and as a result I've been flirting a bit with a colleague, who I've always found attractive. He's also married and has two kids. Recently, we went out for drinks with a few others from the office and somehow ended up together for most of the night. We eventually admitted that we fancied each other and I enjoyed the attention, and totally played up to it. Nothing else happened - we didn't kiss or arrange to meet on our own.**
**When I sobered up the next morning, I felt terrible and realised that starting anything with him would be a huge mistake. How should I deal with this when he sits opposite me?**

**COLEEN SAYS**

I think it's good you've realised you shouldn't take it further - what you really need to be focusing on is your marriage and whether you and your husband make a commitment to work on it or cut your losses and move on. The answer isn't this guy at work - or any other guy - it's a distraction and a way of avoiding what you really need to sort out.
You could just show your colleague that he's firmly back in the friend zone by the way you behave and talk to him.
Alternatively, be direct and say you feel you crossed a line the other night and it's important to keep your relationship to a working one. He might feel the same.
I think once a few weeks have gone by and if you're just focusing on work, the awkwardness will disappear. But you'll be feeling vulnerable right now, so don't put yourself in any risky situations such as going for drinks - stick to the nine to five.
—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

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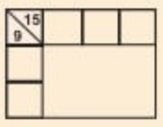
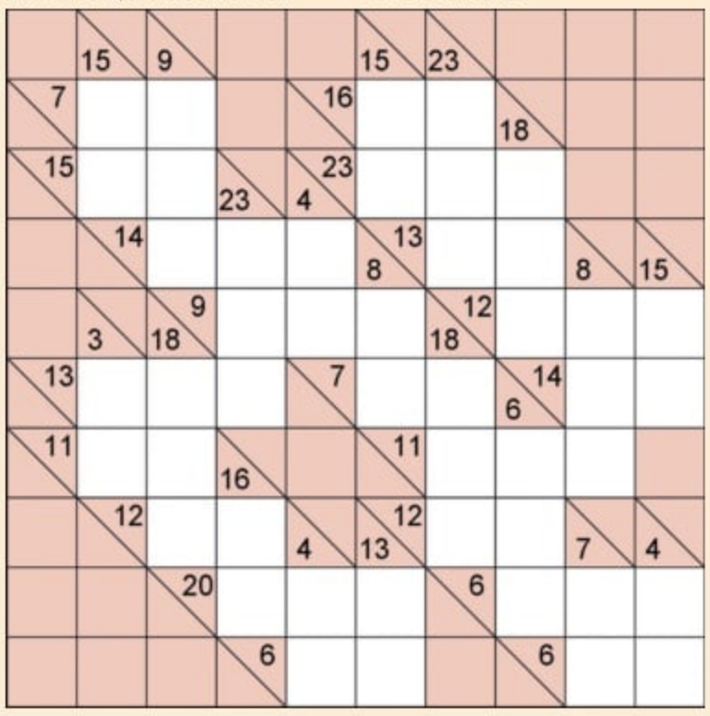
## Kakuro

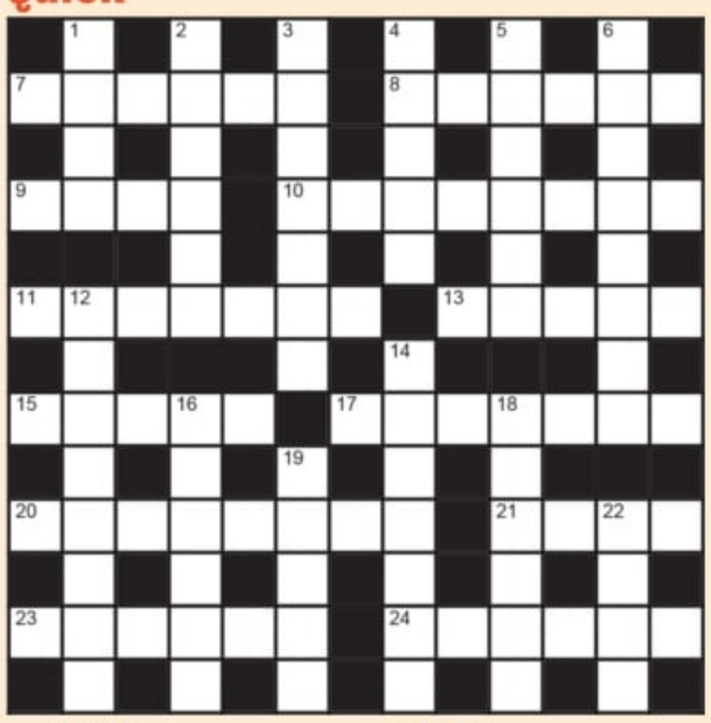
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



## Quick



**ACROSS**

7 Suave and silken? (6)
8 Cultivated the land (6)
9 Gone by (4)
10 Chief support (8)
11 Popular Japanese entertainment (7)
13 Doubter (5)
15 Representative (5)
17 Erecting (7)
20 Just a bit (8)
21 Hit the ___ : be very angry? (4)
23 Conceive and create? (6)
24 Knocked vigorously (6)

**DOWN**

1 Jane Austen novel (4)
2 Merchant of Venice lawyer (6)
3 Movie theatre in Gandhi Nagar (7)
4 Discolouration (5)
5 Showy or ostentatious (6)
6 Neutralization (8)
12 Ms Jolie of Hollywood (8)
14 Attorneys (7)
16 Badgered constantly (6)
18 Text of a play (6)
19 Numerical facts in short (5)
22 Forewarning (4)

## Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

**Today's CLUE: O EQUALS U**

FVNVS ZSTQTZTLV D BDF OFQTU PGO'NV HDUXVR D BTUV TF JTE BGZZDETFE.

### Linemaro

Hey you're so fine you make me stutter, whawha- what's your name?

### Mindchow

Better to understand a little than to misunderstand a lot

### Joke of the day

Before you criticise someone, walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you criticise them, you're a mile away, and you have their shoes

## Loop

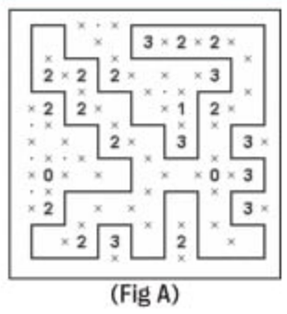
**Rules**

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

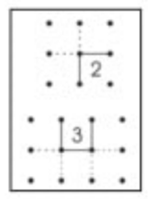
**How to begin:**

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

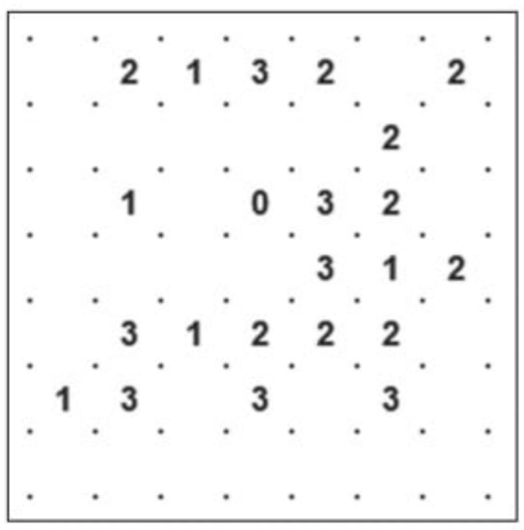
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



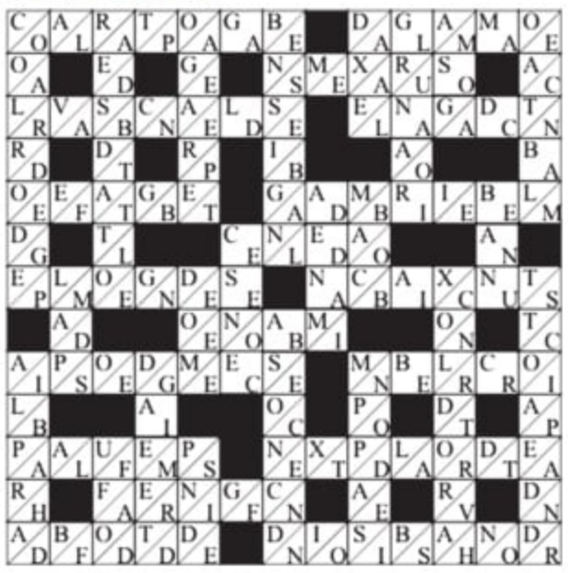
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



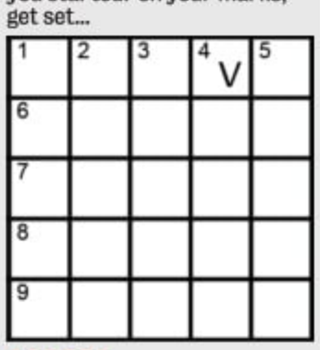
## Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

## Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



**ACROSS**

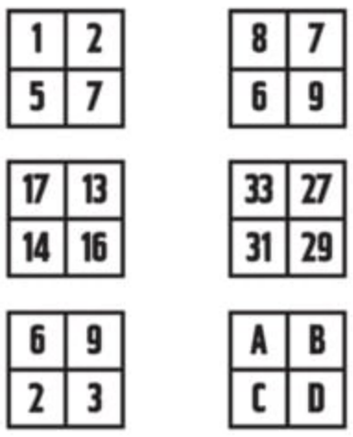
1 Hive C; 6 Moper; 7 I a mum; 8 Gamic; 9 Bolts

**DOWN**

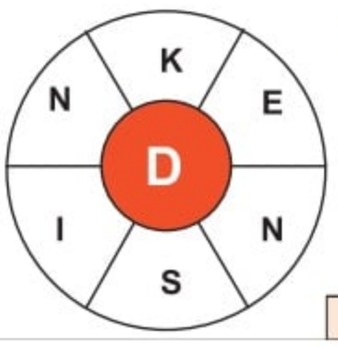
1 Mr Cub; 2 Lam he; 3 Amigo; 4 Vim to; 5 Spice

## Mensapuzzle

What are A, B, C and D?



## Bull's eye




How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

09 Average; 10 Good; 12 Outstanding

## SudokuChallenge

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 8 | | | 6 | | | 5 |
| | | | | 9 | 3 | | | |
| 3 | | 6 | | | 2 | | 7 | |
| 1 | | | | 7 | | | 3 | |
| | 3 | | | | | | 8 | |
| | 7 | | | 3 | | | | 9 |
| | 1 | | 3 | | | 4 | | 6 |
| | | | 5 | 6 | | | | |
| 5 | | | 2 | | | 1 | | |

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

## Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



**Easy**

= 16

3 5 5 9

**Medium**

= 3

2 4 5 9

**Hard**

= 4

3 6 7 6

## Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

**Differences:** 1. Purse is smaller. 2. Tie is missing. 3. Hair is longer. 4. Item in display case is different. 5. Lapel is missing. 6. Necklace is missing from display stand.

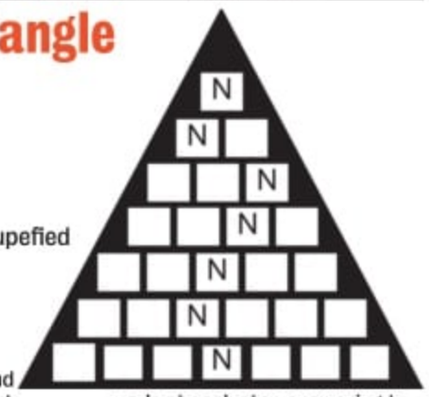
## Riddler

A spoonerism is a pair of words that can have their initial sounds switched to form new words. The pairs need only sound the same, not necessarily be spelled the same (power saw & sour paw, horse cart & coarse heart). There may sometimes be one or two connecting words (kick the stone & stick the cone, king of the rats & ring of the cats). Given the following definitions, what are the spoonerisms?

1) a mournful song & a spoiled cold dish of vegetables served with dressing 2) an excavation of an underground ore deposit in Geneva & the winner of a beauty pageant sponsored by pig farmers

## Alpha triangle

1 One of the poles
2 Neon symbol
3 Japanese coin
4 Lairs
5 Beach hills
6 Tried for a tan
7 Astounded or stupefied




Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

# COMICS

## Redeye by Mel Casson

HEY, JERKYMIAH! WANT TO GO FISHING?
CAIN'T, CHIEF...GOTTA DO MY SPRING CLEANING!
2-16
AH JIST DON'T KNOW WHAR TUH START...THE FRYIN' PAN OR THE COFFEEPOT
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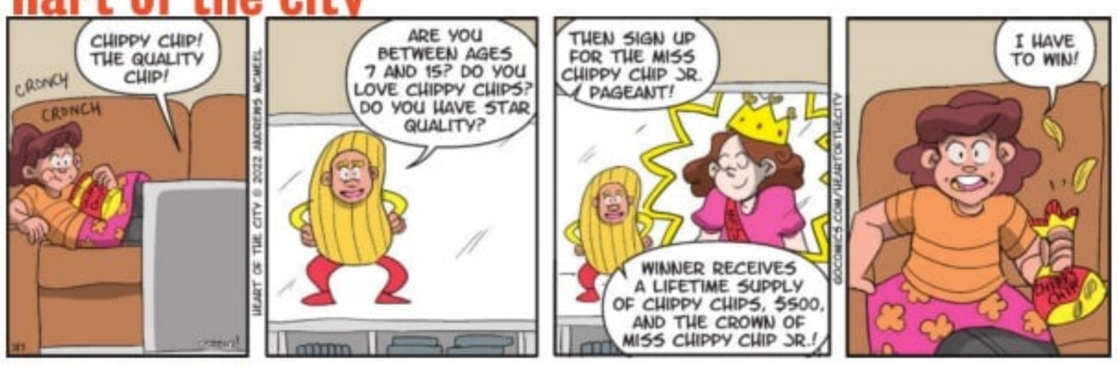
Yates/Casson

## Bizarrotrip

©2022 BIZARRO STUDIOS
Wayno & Piraro 2-26-22
I shall now enact that classic tale, The Emperor's New Clothes.
BIZARRO.COM
FOOL-FRONTAL NUDITY
Dist. by King Features

## Diamond Lil

## Hart of the city


CHIPPY CHIP! THE QUALITY CHIP!
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
ARE YOU BETWEEN AGES 7 AND 15? DO YOU LOVE CHIPPY CHIPS? DO YOU HAVE STAR QUALITY?
THEN SIGN UP FOR THE MISS CHIPPY CHIP JR. PAGEANT!
WINNER RECEIVES A LIFETIME SUPPLY OF CHIPPY CHIPS, $500, AND THE CROWN OF MISS CHIPPY CHIP JR.!
I HAVE TO WIN!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2022 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@COMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

## Crankshaft

CENTERVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SINCE OUR MEETING STARTS AT 7:00...
AND SINCE IT'S ONLY 5:00 NOW...
WE'RE GOING TO WAIT FOR THE OTHERS TO GET HERE BEFORE WE START.
I WANTED TO GET A GOOD SEAT.
© 2022 Mediagraphics, Inc. Dist. by North America Syndicate
2-25
BATIUK & DAVIS

## Mutts

# WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

**Aries** Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may control your straightforwardness; it may affect your terms with the people around you. You may plan to renovate your house; you may also spend on buying some artefacts for home. You are likely to enjoy some social event, which may increase your network. You may also invest some capital in your family business.

**Taurus** Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may be blessed by the moon; after a sound sleep, you may feel healthy; you may enjoy your every moment. The moon will make you confident, which may reflect in your way of working. Old health issues may be resolved now. You are likely to help some needy person, which may increase your respect around you.

**Gemini** May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may feel unhappy; you may feel dull and unhealthy; it will affect your way of working. There may be some delay in your current projects which may lead to arrogance. It is advised to any avoid adventure tour or rash driving. Lovebirds may have a break-up.

**Cancer** Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you are likely to get some big order, which may increase your business. With the help of some influential person, you are likely to get benefits at work. You may also expect promotions. Job-seekers may get a suitable job. You are likely to plan on renovating your house or office, which will enhance your status. You may enjoy your romantic moments with your loved one.

**Leo** Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may be busy at work; overload at work may make you tired mentally. You may not be able to enjoy a family event or you may reach very late which can affect your domestic harmony. Your efficiency may be praised by your seniors, which may lead to a promotion in the current job.

**Virgo** Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you will be blessed by your elders. Last few days' crunch may be resolved now; destiny may help you. Your projects on hold are likely to start automatically. Money which was stuck is likely to be recovered. You may also plan for a religious trip with family members which may increase your inner strength. You may get a chance for overseas trip or long-distance travel also.

**Libra** Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may be affected by a negative moon which may make you upset and arrogant; you may be ready for sudden and unexpected changes in day-to-day routine. Your profits may be converted into losses, so it is advised to postpone making investments for some days. You may be in a self-exploration stage, which may lead you towards reality.

**Scorpio** Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you will be blessed by the moon. Money which was stuck may be recovered now, which may increase liquidity in your business. You may be in a leading position in your office in terms of a project. You are likely to get incentives in terms of promotions. Bonding with the spouse is likely to be improved which may create domestic harmony.

**Sagittarius** Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may resolve many problems with the help of your way of speaking. You may also plan for an advance course to enhance your skills, which may be beneficial for your career in near future. Lovebirds may enjoy their romantic moments. You may be able to control your opponents and rivals. You may also plan for a home or car loan.

**Capricorn** Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you may be busy in kid's education. You are likely to travel for kid's education. You may also plan for a change in your current job, you may also plan for higher education to enhance your career. You may also hear some good news in terms of competitive examination. Lovebirds may enjoy their happy moments.

**Aquarius** Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you are likely to have a change in your place or position. You are advised to read any document carefully before signing. You are advised to be careful in terms of parent's health. Investments in risky assets may lead to losses, so it is suggested to postpone investing for some days.

**Pisces** Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you will be blessed by the moon; you may be energetic, you may take quick decisions in terms of your business. Your subordinates may help you to complete your project before time, which may increase trust in the environment. Disputes with the siblings may be resolved now. Natives who are in job may get some incentives in terms of promotions.

## KIDZONE

Karthik M D, 10 Years, St. Josephs Boys High School

Nuha Haris, 9 Years, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

# SOLUTIONS

**SOLVE IN 1M**
12/(-4)*(-3) - 12/(-3)*(-4)
(-3) * (-3) - (-4) * (-4)
9 - 16 = -7

**RIDDLER**
1) sad ballad & bad salad,
2) Swiss mine & Miss Swine

**BULL'S EYE**
desk, dike, dine, disk, inked, kind, send, side, sinned, skid, SKINNED, snide

**FAST FIVE**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | H | I | V | E |
| R | E | M | O | P |
| U | M | A | M | I |
| M | A | G | I | C |
| B | L | O | T | S |

**STRIKE OUT**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | A | R | T | A | G | E | | A | L | A | M | O | | |
| O | | E | | G | | N | E | X | U | S | | C | | |
| R | A | S | C | A | L | S | | E | N | A | C | T | | |
| O | F | A | G | E | | G | A | B | R | I | E | L | | |
| D | | T | | E | N | D | O | | | A | | | | |
| E | M | E | N | D | S | | A | B | A | C | U | S | | |
| A | P | O | G | E | E | S | | M | E | R | C | I | | |
| L | | A | | C | | O | | D | | P | | | | |
| P | L | U | M | P | | E | X | P | L | O | D | E | | |
| H | | F | E | I | G | N | | E | | V | | N | | |
| A | B | O | D | E | | D | I | S | B | A | N | D | | |

**QUICK**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | A | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | I | N | V | E | N | T | | R | A | P | P | E | D |
| | | I | | G | | A | | E | | I | | M | | |
| S | L | I | G | H | T | L | Y | | R | O | O | F | | |
| E | | A | | S | | W | | | | C | | | | |
| A | G | E | N | T | | R | A | I | S | I | N | G | | |
| N | | | | A | | L | | | | O | | | | |
| K | A | R | A | O | K | E | | C | Y | N | I | C | | |
| I | | | | I | | N | | H | | T | | | | |
| P | A | S | T | M | A | I | N | S | T | A | Y | | | |
| M | | R | | U | | A | | A | | G | | | | |
| S | M | O | T | H | | T | I | L | L | E | D | | | |
| | P | | B | | S | | F | | | N | | | | |

**MENSA PUZZLE**
A is 9, B is 11, C is 8, D is 12 if the four corners are numbered:

| | |
|---|---|
| 3 | 4 |
| 1 | 2 |

**QUOTE UNCODE**
Never criticize a man until you've walked a mile in his moccasins.

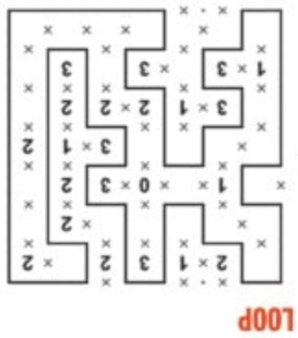
**SUDOKU**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 8 |
| 8 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 3 |
| 2 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 4 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| 6 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 7 |
| 1 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 4 |
| 3 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 1 |
| 7 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 2 |
| 9 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

**ALPHA TRIANGLE**
N, Ne, Sen, Dens, Dunes, Sunned, Stunned.

**GO FIGURE**
Easy
5 - 3 + 9 + 5 = 16
4 + 2 + 9 / 5 = 3
Medium
6 - 3 + 7 - 6 = 4
Hard

**LOOP**



**KAKURO**

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